

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 12, 2005

Dear Colleague,

Sharply rising gasoline, heating oil, and natural gas prices in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita provided a wake-up call around the country. These events brought to our attention the effects that local, single-event natural disasters could have on nationwide consumer pricing due to short and mid-term interruptions in oil and gas production, refining, and distribution. However, these volatile fluctuations in fuel prices are only a preview. A growing number of petroleum experts believe that the peak in the world's oil production (Peak Oil) is likely to occur in the next decade while demand continues to rise. It also appears that the production of natural gas in North America has peaked. Furthermore, the existing infrastructure needed to drill for, process, transport, and refine oil and natural gas are currently at capacity. Therefore, the federal government must immediately adopt a long-term strategy to mitigate future energy shortages that may increase energy prices and have a destabilizing affect on our nation's economic prosperity, national security, and environmental quality.

In order to prepare and educate our colleagues about these serious energy challenges, we have just formed the bipartisan "Congressional Peak Oil Caucus." The caucus will act as a forum to discuss how the United States can prepare for the coming peak in world oil production and a similar peak in North American natural gas production. What policies should the nation adapt? What role should the federal government play? What can states do? All of these questions are critical to the future well being of the nation. As co-chairs, we invite you to join this significant new caucus, and to become an original co-sponsor of our soon to be introduced House Resolution that expresses: "the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States, in collaboration with other international allies, should establish an energy project with the magnitude, creativity, and sense of urgency that was incorporated in the 'Man on the Moon' project to address the inevitable challenges of 'Peak Oil' ".

If you would like to become an original cosponsor of the Resolution mentioned above and/or would like to join our caucus, please contact Mark Aitken on Rep. Bartlett's staff at ext. 5-2721 or Steve Quane on Rep. Udall's staff at ext. 5-6190. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Roscoe G. Bartlett
Member of Congress

Tom Udall
Member of Congress